

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A method of establishing a connection to a desired  
2     communications network, comprising the steps of:  
3           sending a request signal to each of a plurality of communications  
4     networks;  
5           receiving response signals from said communications networks;  
6           indicating the received response signals;  
7           allowing a user to select one of said plurality of networks based on the  
8     indicated response signals; and  
9           establishing a connection to the selected communications network.
- 1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein said response signal indicates  
2     traffic congestion level of each of said communications networks.
- 1           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein said response signal indicates  
2     information concerning a communication service of each of said  
3     communications networks.
- 1           4.     The method of claim 3, wherein said information indicates tariff  
2     of each of said communications networks.
- 1           5.     A communication terminal comprising:  
2           a network interface for sending a request signal to each of a plurality  
3     of communications networks and for receiving response signals from said  
4     communications networks; and

5 a user interface for indicating the received response signals to allow a  
6 user to enter a command signal based on the indicated response signals and  
7 selecting one of said plurality of networks according to the entered command  
8 signal; and  
9 said network interface establishing a connection to one of said  
10 plurality of networks which is selected by said user interface.

1 6. The communication terminal of claim 5, wherein said response  
2 signal indicates traffic congestion level of each of said communications  
3 networks.

1 7. The communication terminal of claim 5, wherein said response  
2 signal indicates information concerning a communication service of each of  
3 said communications networks.

1 8. The communication terminal of claim 7, wherein said  
2 information indicates tariff of each of said communications networks.

1 9. A communication system comprising:  
2 a plurality of wireless networks, each of the wireless networks  
3 producing a response signal upon receipt of a request signal; and  
4 a wireless terminal comprising:  
5 a wireless interface for sending said request signal to each of  
6 said plurality of wireless networks and for receiving response signals from  
7 said wireless networks;  
8 a user interface for indicating the received response signals,

9 allowing a user to enter a command signal based on the indicated response  
10 signals and selecting one of said wireless networks according to the entered  
11 command signal,  
12 said wireless interface establishing a connection to one of said  
13 wireless networks which is selected by said user interface.

1 10. The communication system of claim 9, wherein said response  
2 signal indicates traffic congestion level of each of said communications  
3 networks.

1 11. The communication system of claim 9, wherein said response  
2 signal indicates information concerning a communication service of each of  
3 said communications networks.

1 12. The communication system of claim 11, wherein said  
2 information indicates tariff of each of said networks.

1 13. A method of performing a handover operation, comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3 sending a handover request signal to each of a plurality of wireless  
4 networks;  
5 receiving a response signal from each of said plurality of wireless  
6 networks, the response signal of each wireless network indicating traffic  
7 congestion level of the network;  
8 selecting one of said plurality of wireless networks based on response  
9 signals received from said wireless networks; and

10 establishing a connection to the selected wireless network.

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1 14. A mobile terminal comprising:

2 a wireless interface for sending a handover request signal to each of a  
3 plurality of wireless networks and receiving a response signal from each of  
4 said plurality of wireless networks, the response signal of each wireless  
5 network indicating traffic congestion level of the network; and  
6 control circuitry for selecting one of said plurality of wireless networks  
7 based on the response signals received from said networks,  
8 said wireless interface establishing a connection to the wireless  
9 network selected by the control circuitry.

1 15. A communication system comprising:

2 a plurality of wireless networks, each of said networks producing a  
3 response signal upon receipt of a handover request signal which indicates  
4 traffic congestion level of the network; and

5 a wireless terminal comprising:

6 a wireless interface for sending said handover request signal to  
7 said wireless networks and receiving said response signals from said wireless  
8 networks; and

9 control circuitry for selecting one of said wireless networks  
10 based on the received response signals,

11 said wireless interface establishing a connection to one of said  
12 wireless networks which is selected by said control circuitry.

1 16. A method of establishing a connection to a selected network,

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2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving, at a first communications network, a connection request  
4 from a user terminal;

5 sending a request signal from said first communications network to a  
6 traffic management center if said connection request encounters a traffic  
7 congestion; and

8 sending a rerouting message from the center to said user terminal via  
9 said first communications network for identifying a second communications  
10 network whose congestion level is lower than a predefined threshold level to  
11 thereby allow a user to send a connection request to said second  
12 communications network.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein said second communications  
2 network has a least routing cost.

1 18. A communication system comprising:

2 a traffic management center; and

3 a plurality of communications networks, a first one of the

4 communications networks receiving a connection request from a user

5 terminal and sending a request signal to said traffic management center when

6 a traffic congestion is encountered in said first communications network and

7 receiving a rerouting message from said center, and sending the received

8 rerouting message to said user terminal to allow a user to establish a

9 connection to a network identified by the rerouting message,

10 said traffic management center responding to said request signal by

11 returning said rerouting message to said first communications network, the

- 12 rerouting message identifying a second one of said networks whose  
13 congestion level is lower than a predefined threshold level.

- 1            19.    The communication system of claim 18, wherein said second  
2    one of the networks has a least routing cost.